

1664-1666 and 1701 Censuses: *Digitalarkivet*

Norway “How to” Guide, Advanced Level: Instruction

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GOAL

This guide will teach you how to access and navigate through the images and indexes of the early census records for Norway (1664-1701) using the website *Digitalarkivet*.

INTRODUCTION

The earliest available census records for most of Norway were taken in the years 1664-1666. A second census was conducted in 1701. These censuses are organized by parish, then farm. Both censuses only cover rural areas except for Finnmark. Additionally, some areas have missing records. These censuses are available on *Digitalarkivet*, the most widely used database for Norwegian genealogical research, found at <https://www.digitalarkivet.no/en>.

The **1664-1666 census** was a double census taken over three years. The clerical census was taken by the parish priest, while the civil census was taken by the civil authorities. This census includes the name and age of the head of household, and all male family members over the age of twelve. Sometimes the recorder lists all male children, regardless of age. If the head of household is a widowed woman, she may be listed as *enken* (widow), but seldom by name or age. The content of the clerical and civil records is often the same, but if possible, search both as each census may contain different information.

The **1701 census** a, name of the farmers, their ages, names and ages of their sons, and names and ages of their servants. However, this census will list all males from age one and older, and if a servant came from a different parish, it will also list the name of the parish he came from.

For more information about Norwegian censuses see entries in the FamilySearch Wiki at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Census

HOW TO

Both the 1664-1666 and the 1701 censuses have been digitized and are available online at *Digitalarkivet*. Very little of either census has been indexed.

The website *Digitalarkivet* organizes jurisdictions first by region, then province, and finally by parish or **sogn**. The censuses, however, are organized by deanery or **prosti**, then by a clerical district or **prestegjeld**, and finally by parish or **sogn**. *Digitalarkivet* will use the parish name you choose to navigate to the correct census grouping. Because of the many different jurisdictions in Norwegian records, make sure to note the Norwegian word following the name of the jurisdiction.

Browsing the census images

Go to *Digitalarkivet*, found at: <https://digitalarkivet.no/en/>. This is the website's main page. If the site opens in Norwegian, click on **Bokmål**, found on the top right of the page, and select **English**. There is a large search box where you can search indexed records. However, since the early census records are for the most part unindexed, the browse feature will be most useful. To access the browse feature, click on **Find source**, located underneath the search box.

Each column on the Find source page will help locate a specific record set. The left column, Text search, allows for a search by key word or time period. The Category column provides a list of record types to select. The right column, Geography, allows for selection of records based on region, province, or parish. Under the columns, each entry containing a down arrow will provide additional jurisdictions or records that can be selected to further identify a record set.

Once you select an option, the option will appear in a red box under in the upper left corner of the website under Find source. If you have selected the wrong location or category, you can click on the red x next to the selection you wish to remove. Once you have selected your text, category, and/or geographic location, click on **Search** for a list of all results.

The results page will list all record sets that match the terms you selected. Each entry listed will show the title of the collection, as well as a link to browse the images. Additionally, it will indicate if it has been indexed. If the entry contains the words "Not searchable," the set has not been indexed. If it contains the clickable phrase "Search source," you can search the index by clicking on the link. Once you have identified the record set of interest, click on Browse scans to access the digital image. You can also change your search terms by clicking on **Reset** and choosing your terms again.

Once you have selected a record set, you will usually see a list of jurisdictions within the record set, with links for each jurisdiction. Identify the jurisdiction you wish to view, then click on the blue page number to the right of the jurisdiction. This will take you to the first image of the records for that specific jurisdiction.

To browse, use the sliding bar at the top of the image (this is the image number), the written page number (listed at the top right in the "Side" box), or the < or > buttons to go forward or backward one image. To zoom in and out, use the + and – buttons. To move your view of the image, click and drag. If you want to save the image as a source citation in an online tree or your personal family history software, copy the URL at the top of the browser page and copy it into your program. When clicked, the URL should bring you back to the image.

Further information

For additional help in your Norwegian census records, check out the following resources:

- A genealogical word list can be found on the FamilySearch Wiki at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norwegian_Genealogical_Word_List
- Norwegian script can be difficult to read. For help with learning Scandinavian script, look at the FamilySearch Wiki article: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Norway_Handwriting

PRACTICE

Let's use Digitalarkivet to locate a census record for Gullich Jensen, who lived on the farm Ramsta in the parish of Rælingen in the county of Akershus.

1. Go to *Digitalarkivet*, found at: <https://digitalarkivet.no/en/>. If the site opens in Norwegian, click on **Bokmål**, found on the top right of the page, and select **English**.
2. Underneath the search box, click on **Find source**.
3. Akershus is in the Østlandet region. Under the Geography column, click on the region of **Østlandet**. (If you don't know your county's region, you can browse through the regions until you find it.) In the dropdown menu, click on **Akershus**. All parishes within Akershus county will appear. Find and click on the parish of **Rælingen**.
4. Under the Category column, click on **Census (male register)** and select **1663-1666 Church male census**. Notice the red boxes in the upper left corner of the page showing your selections of Rælingen and 1663-1666 Church male census. If you have selected the wrong location or category, click on the red **x** next to the one you wish to remove.
5. Above and to the right of the three columns of dropdown menus, click on **Search**.
6. You should now see two hits for Rælingen. Under the hit "Vicar's Census 1664-1666, no 3: Nedre romerike deanery," click on the words **Browse scans**.
7. Scroll through the results. Notice there are no results on the left side for Rælingen. Look in the fourth column and scroll through the list again. Rælingen *sogn* (parish) appears under the section for Fet *prestegjeld* (Fet clerical district). Notice there are several entries for Rælingen. Find the one that reads Fet *prestegjeld* 1665.09.06 Rælingen *sogn* 194-195 and click on **194-195**. In your own search, you may need to browse through all entries for the parish to find the correct farm.
8. You should now see pages 194 and 195 of the 1665 census. Look on page 194 in the first column until you see the farm Ramsta. The second column to the right of Ramsta is the name of the head of household: Jens 51 Aar (Jens age 51). The third column lists other males in the household, including Gullich Jensen soldat 24 Aar (Gullich Jensen a soldier age 24). The next two columns are left blank; these would list the names of any male servants or tenant farmers working for the farmer over the age of 12, had there been any.

ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this "How to" Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you've mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.